

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A method for device selection in a computer system, the method comprising:
  - a caller creating a device picker;
  - the device picker displaying all of the relevant devices;
  - a user selecting a device; and
  - the device picker returning a reference to the selected device back to the caller.
2. The method of Claim 1, wherein when the caller creates the device picker it in turn creates a common file dialog object.
3. The method of Claim 2, wherein when the device picker displays all of the relevant devices it does so in the common file dialog.
4. The method of Claim 3, wherein when the user selects the device it does so from the common file dialog.
5. The method of Claim 1, further comprising the caller choosing an item filter to use.
6. The method of Claim 5, wherein the item filter is created by the caller and the device picker is initialized with the item filter.
7. The method of Claim 5, wherein the item filter is passed by the caller and the device picker is initialized with the item filter.
8. The method of Claim 5, wherein the item filter is created by the device picker.
9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the relevant devices are displayed in a user interface where a user can click on a device to select it such that a drop-down list box is not required for selecting the devices.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein the user interface includes icons for the devices.

11. The method of Claim 9, wherein the user interface includes descriptions of the device types.

12. The method of Claim 9, wherein the user interface includes the names of the devices in addition to additional information about each of the devices.

13. The method of Claim 9, wherein the devices in the user interface are actionable.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein the actionability of the devices includes a user being able to right-click on the devices to perform actions such as viewing the device properties.

15. A system for device selection comprising:  
a device enumeration component;  
a filtering component; and  
a device selection user interface.

16. The system of Claim 15, wherein the user interface includes icons for the devices.

17. The system of Claim 15, wherein the user interface includes descriptions of the device types.

18. The system of Claim 15, wherein the devices in the user interface are actionable.

19. The system of Claim 18, wherein the actionability of the devices includes a user being able to right-click on the devices to perform actions such as viewing the device properties.

20. The system of Claim 15, wherein devices are displayed in the user interface where a user can click on a device to select it such that a drop-down list box is not required for selecting the devices.

21. The system of Claim 15, wherein the filtering component utilizes a filter that is specified by a caller.

22. The system of Claim 15, wherein the filtering component utilizes a filter that is specified by a user.

23. A method for device selection in a computer system, the method comprising:  
receiving a call for device selection; and  
in response to receiving the call, enumerating a set of devices from which a user can make a selection, and returning a reference to the selected device back to the caller.

24. The method of Claim 23, wherein the caller creates a device picker, which in turn creates a common file dialog object.

25. The method of Claim 24, wherein when the device picker displays all of the relevant devices it does so in the common file dialog.

26. The method of Claim 25, wherein when the user selects the device it does so from the common file dialog.

27. The method of Claim 23, further comprising the user selecting an item filter to use.

28. The method of Claim 23, wherein the relevant devices are displayed in a user interface where a user can click on a device to select it such that a drop-down list box is not required for selecting the devices.

29. The method of Claim 28, wherein the user interface includes icons for the devices.

30. The method of Claim 28, wherein the devices in the user interface are actionable.

31. One or more computer-readable media for enabling a computer-program segment which may require a device selection to communicate with one or more other computer-program segments, said media comprising:

a set of computer-readable instructions to cause a request to have a user select a device and to return an indication of the user's selected device to be communicated to one or more other computer-program segments capable of executing said requests.

32. The media of Claim 31, wherein the devices are displayed in a user interface where a user can click on a device to select it such that a drop-down list box is not required for selecting the devices.

33. The media of Claim 32, wherein the user interface includes icons for the devices.

34. The media of Claim 32, wherein the devices in the user interface are actionable.

35. The media of Claim 31, wherein a filter is utilized that can be selected and adjusted by the user.

36. The media of Claim 31, wherein a common file dialog object is utilized as part of the device selection process.

37. The media of Claim 36, wherein a common file dialog is utilized for displaying a set of devices to the user.

38. One or more computer-readable media for enabling a computer-program segment which requires a device selection to communicate with one or more other computer-program segments, said media comprising:

a set of computer-usable instructions that cause a request to return a device selection to be communicated to one or more other computer-program segments capable of executing said request, wherein the relevant devices are displayed in a user interface where a user can click on a device to select it, such that a drop-down list space box is not required for selecting the devices.

39. The media of Claim 38, wherein the user interface includes icons for the devices.

40. The media of Claim 38, wherein the devices in the user interface are actionable.

41. The media of Claim 38, wherein a filter is utilized.

42. The media of Claim 41, wherein the user can select and adjust the filter.